



Approved as amended June 11, 2012

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**5:00 p.m. Monday, May 14, 2012
Human Resources Pinnacle Training Room
7575 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona**

Present: Jeff Jameson, Chair
Linda Simmons, Vice Chair (arrived at 4:46 p.m.)
James Campbell, Commissioner
Bob Fox, Commissioner
Edward Lopez, Commissioner
Joel Martin, Commissioner (departed at 7:05 p.m.)

Absent: Susan Galpin, Commissioner

Staff: Velicia McMillan Humes

Guests: Pat Toftoy, Library
Joy Racine, Neighborhood Resources

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jameson called the meeting to order at approximately 4:07 p.m.

1 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Fox requested a revision to reflect that Mr. Corwin's statement in Item 3 was his personal interpretation of the law. Commissioner Martin suggested an addition to clarify that Neighborhood Services, not the Police Department, administers the Neighborhood Watch Program.



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Approved 5-0: Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Lopez. Vice Chair Simmons was not yet present.

2 SCOTTSDALE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Joy Racine, Neighborhood Resources Department, provided an overview of the Scottsdale Neighborhood Watch Program. The focus of the program is to help residents connect with each other so they understand who lives in their neighborhood, and what constitutes suspicious behavior there.

Commissioner Martin queried how citizens are advised to handle situations like the one involving Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. Ms. Racine explained that citizens are advised to trust their gut feelings and use their best judgment to determine whether to call the police department or not. They are not encouraged to confront individuals, but are instead asked to serve as the eyes and ears of the community. Chair Jameson inquired whether any of the watch groups engage in foot patrols. Ms. Racine said the goal is to foster communication between residents of a neighborhood, not to patrol in shifts.

Commissioner Fox asked whether HOAs approve neighborhood watch activities inside their communities. Ms. Racine explained that as far as the City is concerned, anybody could have a watch program regardless of where they live. The Commission discussed the notion of attending block watch parties as a way to expand their outreach effort.

Chairman Jameson inquired whether watch groups receive any type of diversity training. Ms. Racine said the City does not offer formal training, but encourages residents to relate their reports to someone's suspicious activity, not on the group they belong to.

Ms. Racine suggested that the annual celebration event in September would be a good opportunity for the HRC to make diversity-related resources available to neighborhood watch groups. Other opportunities for outreach include the Neighborhood College classes and the Adopt-a-Road program.

Commissioner Fox inquired whether any patterns have developed in recent police calls from neighborhood watch groups to suggest they are racially motivated. Ms. Racine said she has not heard of any, but Crime Prevention might know more.



3 PLANNING 2012/2013 CULTURAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

The HRC discussed preliminary plans to partner with the Scottsdale Library on a civil discourse activity in October. Pat Toftoy noted that June is the deadline for submitting marketing materials. Velicia McMillan Humes said Public Relations has offered their marketing support and suggested changing the name of the Cross Cultural Communication Series to improve its marketing potential.

The HRC discussed their objectives for their cultural awareness activities, and settled on the following:

- Build bridges between people
- Provide education via subject matter experts
- Deliver high quality products with impact
- Be relevant, current, and responsive to issues as they arise
- Hold provocative events that attract attention and foster change when acted on
- Foster a spirit of advocacy by providing factual information to residents so that they can come to sound conclusions on their own

Commissioner Martin suggested establishing a Twitter account to promote HRC activities. The Commission discussed expanding the number of community dialogue events. Velicia McMillan Humes explained that since the responsibilities of the Office of Diversity and Dialogue will soon be expanded, staff's ability to support Commission activities would be limited.

The Commission agreed to hold three public events:

- A civil dialogue at the library before the November elections
- A discussion with Don Logan on his new book in February
- A forum on refugees in April

Commissioners Jameson, Simmons, and Campbell agreed to meet to plan the three events in detail.

4 DISCUSS THE ARIZONA ACCORD AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

Chairman Jameson stated that he sent correspondence to Mayor Lane and each of the City Council Members to offer an educational presentation on the work that the HRC has done to promote diversity including the immigration study. He received four responses, but no Council Member opted to place the item on the agenda. He suggested that as an alternative he could approach the City Manager with the request. The Commission put a lot of work into preparing the report, and so far, only fellow HRC Commissioners across the Valley have seen it.

Velicia McMillan Humes suggested that the study could be included as part of the end of the year review. Commissioner Martin proposed sending a follow-up letter to the Mayor and City



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Council to express the Commission's interpretation of their decision not to hear the matter. She felt this letter should be sent regardless of the outcome of the discussion with the City Manager.

Approved 5-1: Chair Jameson made a motion to have the Chair of the HRC contact the City Manager to update him on the Commission's progress, and to request that this matter be added to the City Council agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Simmons. Commissioner Fox dissented.

Chair Jameson expressed concern that he did not have consensus on a course of action. Commissioner Martin felt that the Chair should inform the City Manager that the HRC has done their due diligence in representing the City in light of their charter. The Commission has reported directly to the Council and has received a response from them.

Chair Jameson opted to hold another vote on the same motion.

Failed 2-4: Chair Jameson made a motion to have the Chair of the HRC contact the City Manager to update him on the Commission's progress, and to request that this matter be added to the City Council agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Commissioners Simmons, Martin, Fox and Lopez dissented.

Commissioner Martin suggested a motion to close out the matter.

Approved 6-0: Commissioner Martin made a motion to have the Chair send a letter on behalf of the HRC to the Mayor and each of the City Council Members, acknowledging them for their time, stating the results of the Chair's meetings, and explaining the Commission's interpretation of their response. Seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

5 CHAIRMAN REPORTS

Chair Jameson reported that he attended the Southern Poverty Law Center presentation at the Performing Arts Center recently. He also attended the NAACP Annual Dinner and the Community Celebrating Diversity Scholarship Awards Program. He reported that Linda Walton just graduated from Scottsdale Leadership. The 5th Annual Powerfully Positive Woman Awards are on June 22. The event will be followed by a conversation on leadership.



6 COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Martin requested an agenda item to revisit the idea of using civil dialogue as the template for the three events. Commissioner Campbell said he attended a recent Urban League event. Vice Chair Simmons attended the Silver and Turquoise Ball, a charity event for the Phoenix Indian Center. The Chamber of Commerce held their 65th Gala on Saturday.

7 OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

None.

8 STAFF LIAISON ITEMS

None.

9 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.



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